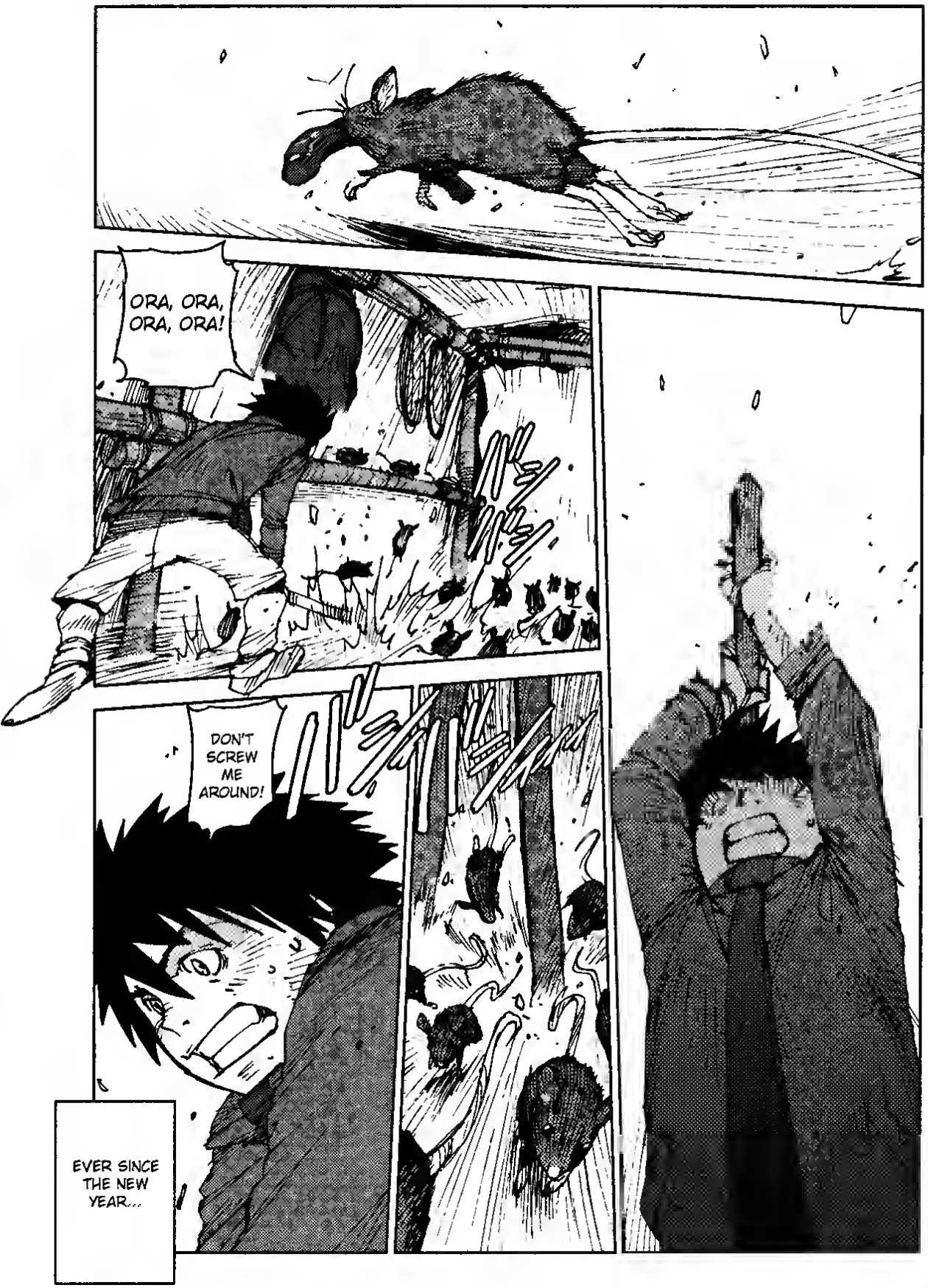
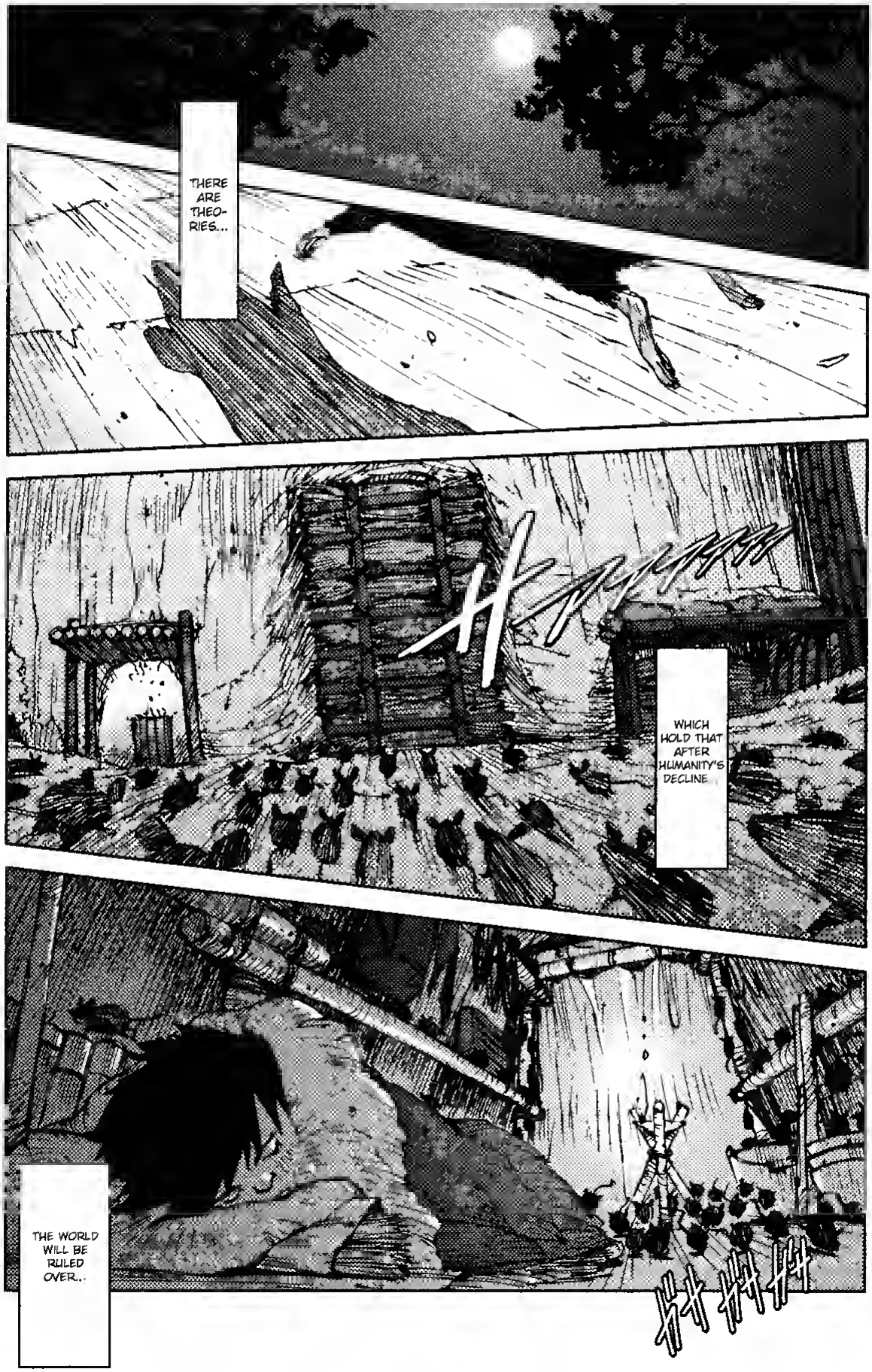
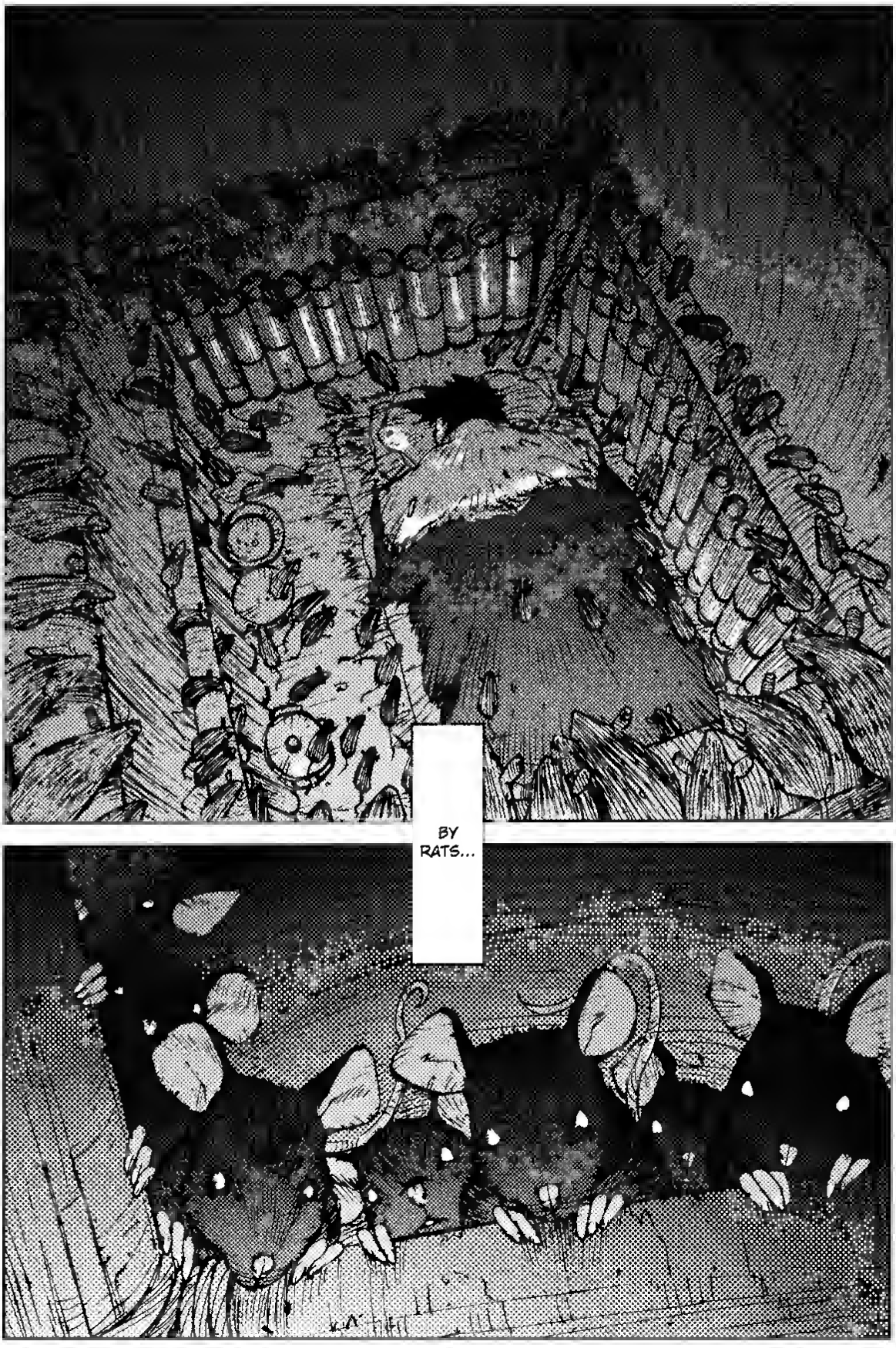
DANGER 21



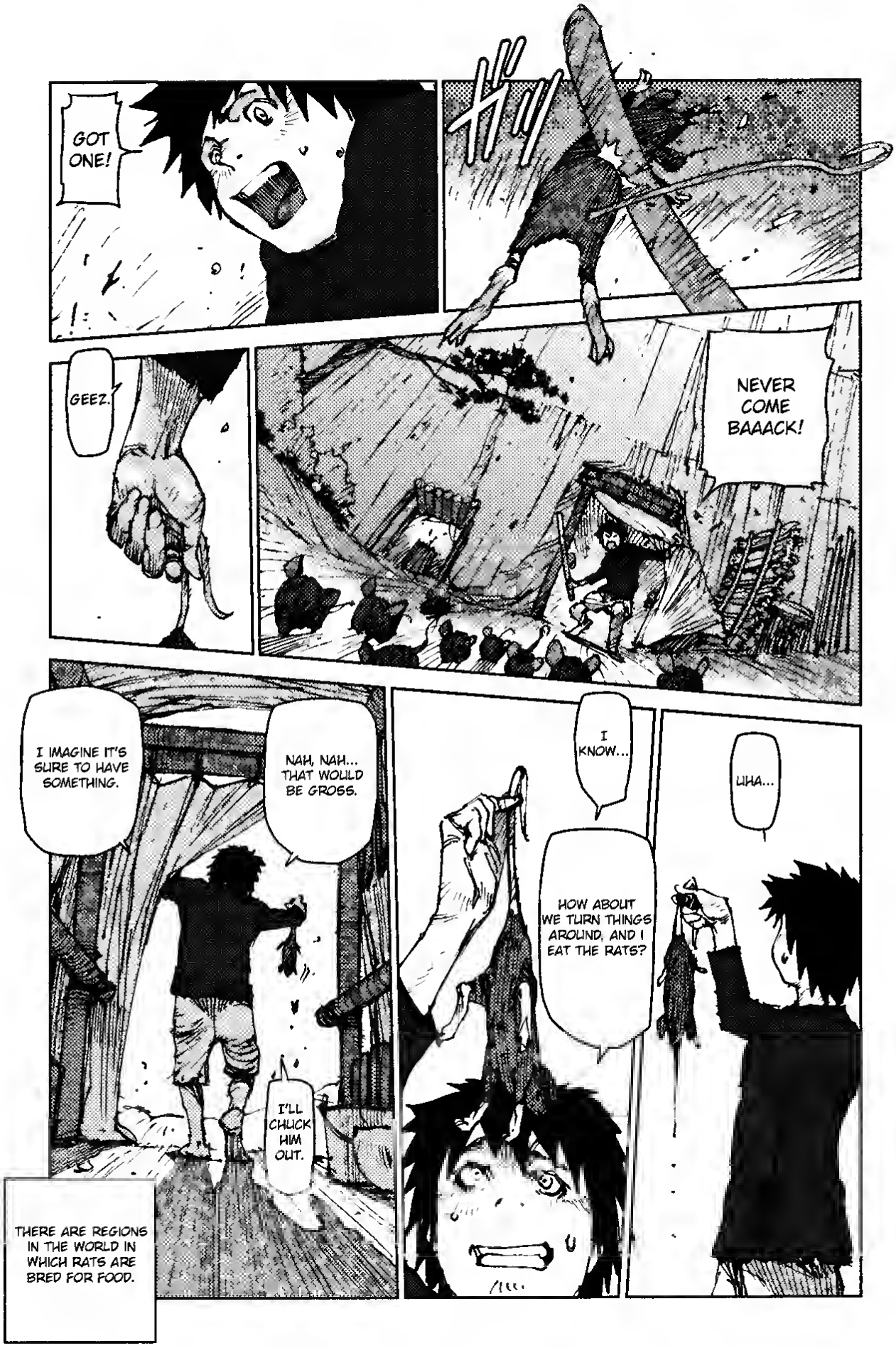
NO MATTER HOW OFTEN HE'D DRIVE THEM AWAY, THEY'D REAPPEAR...
ORAAA-AAAH!
THE BOY HAD BEEN BATTLING THE RATS DAY AND NIGHT.
I AIN'T EXACTLY DOING ALL THIS JUST TO FEED YOU LOT!
I AIN'T GONNA LET YOU SNATCH ANY MORE OF MY PRECIOUS FOOD!
THEY JUST CONTINUED TO INCREASE IN NUMBER AND FREQUENCY...
HAAH.
HAAH.
DAMN SHIT-HEADS!


THERE ARE THEO-RIES...
WHICH HOLD THAT AFTER HUMANITY'S DECLINE
THE WORLD WILL BE RULED OVER..


BY
RATS...

WITH HOW THE BOY WAS FINDING THINGS HE MIGHT WELL...
HAVE FELT THAT TO BE TRUE RIGHT NOW.
ｸｯｸｯ
ｸﾞﾁｬｸﾞﾁｬ
GYAAAAAAH!
ｶﾌﾟ

EEP...
I'LL SMACK YOU UP, HOW'S ABOUT A LITTLE TRAINING DRIIILL!
THAT'S ENOOOUGH!
DAMN RATS.
I'M FINALLY DOING IIIIT!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WASN'T GONNA BE FOOD FOR YOU LOOOT?!


GOT ONE!
ガッ
GEEZ.
NEVER COME BAAACK!
I IMAGINE IT'S SURE TO HAVE SOMETHING.
NAH, NAH... THAT WOULD BE GROSS.
I'LL CHUCK HIM OUT.
I KNOW...
HOW ABOUT WE TURN THINGS AROUND, AND I EAT THE RATS?
UHA...
THERE ARE REGIONS IN THE WORLD IN WHICH RATS ARE BRED FOR FOOD.

ヒュッ
ORYAH!
IN SUCH REGIONS, RATS ARE OFTEN A KEY SOURCE OF PROTEIN...
SUPPOSEDLY THE TASTE ISN'T TOO BAD, AND REMINISCENT OF CHICKEN MEAT OR EDIBLE FROG.
THEY REALLY BIT ME...
UNLESS TAKEN AS A MEAL, IT IS BEST TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM YOUR MOUTH.
AAH...
OUCH!
HOWEVER, RATS ALSO MAKE SUITABLE ENVIRONMENTS FOR NUMEROUS PATHOGENS.
I MEAN IT'S NOT EXACTLY A GOOD LOOK BEING BITTEN BY A RAT...
THIS COULD BE BAD, COULDN'T IT....
INDEED.... INJURIES FROM RAT BITES CAN CONTAIN ALL THE MORE TERRIFYING PATHOGENS.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OVER 80 MILLION PEOPLED DIED ACROSS THE WORLD.
IN THE 14TH CENTURY RATS ACTED AS VECTORS AND SPREAD THE BUBONIC PLAGUE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
IN MODERN DAY JAPAN, MEDICAL IMPROVEMENTS AND HYGIENE MANAGEMENT HAS MEANT...
AH, HERE IT IS, HERE IT IS!
LARGE SCALE INFECTIONS FROM RATS HAVE DECREASED.

HOWEVER, WHILE RATS MAY ACT AS VECTORS....
THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE INFECTIONS DO NOT COME ABOUT FROM PATHOGENS.
SAXI-FRAGE!
MY DAD ALWAYS SAID IT ...
WOULD WORK FOR ALL SORTS OF INJURIES.
I'LL APPLY THIS FOR NOW.
THE BOY HAD BEEN BITTEN BY A RAT...
AND BEEN INFECTED BY THE SPIROCHAETE FOR RATBITE FEVER.